formulating appropriate schemes and policies for all round improvement in welfare.

Families below Poverty Line (BPL) in Maharashtra

1001. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than six million families in Maharashtra are below the poverty line (BPL);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government are taking or propose to take to reduce BPL families in Maharashtra within a time frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission estimates the number of persons living below the poverty line. As per the latest estimates, 30.522 million persons in Maharashtra are estimated to live below the poverty line in 1993-94. On the basis of average household size of people around the poverty line in rural and urban areas as per the National Sample Survey data on consumer expenditure of 1993-94, the number of families below the poverty line in Maharashtra works out to 6.1 million in 1993-94;

(c) There is a three pronged action against poverty. These are (a) acceleration of economic growth, (b) human and social development through literacy, education, helath, nutrition, meeting the minimum needs, alleviation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society etc. and (c) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and asset building for the poor. The main among these programmes are the Integrated Rural Development Programme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Nehru Rozgar Yojana, Employment Assurance Scheme, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, Griha Kalyan Yojana, Urban Basic Services for the poor and Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme.

Central aid for Janmabhoomi Programme in Andhra Pradesh

1002. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has sought Central aid for implementation of Janmabhoomi programmes in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government of Andhra Pradesh had sent a proposal seeking for Central aid of Rs. 250 crore for implementation of Janmabhoomi programme in the State. The proposal was discussed on 15th January, 1998 in a meeting held in Planning Commission, wherein the representatives of the Union Ministry of Finance and the Government of Andhra Pradesh were present. The proposal could not be agreed to because of the resource constraints and the state Government was advised to accommodate the programme within their overall approved Plan Outlay.

Population Growth

1003. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during 1994-97 the population growth was 1.89%;

(b) what was the anticipated growth percentage;

(c) what is likely to be the effect of this growth after 15 to 18 years on the population eligible for employment;

(d) what are Government's plans for industrial growth to absorb the population eligible for employment during next five years;

(e) whether it s a fact that 2/3 of population eligible for employment is agricultural labour; and

(f) whether Government would consider granting agriculture, the status of industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Projected Natural growth rate for the period 1996—2016 is given below:

	Natural growth rate
1996—2001	1.51
2001—2006	1.46
2006—2011	1.45
2011—2016	1.40

[SOURCE: Technical Group on Population Projection]

(c) According to an internal exercise done in the Planning Commission the population and the Labour Force (age 15+) for the year 2007 have been projected at 1107.51 million and 509.35 million respectively. The projections for labour force have been done taking into consideration the increase in population, change in the age structure of the population and the age group specific Labour Force Participation Rates. The exercise was done for period upto 2007.

(d) In the large and medium industry sector the stress is on achieving a high rate of industrial growth by increasing competitiveness of industries. Besides, there are schemes like Growth Centres and Integrated Infrastructural Development centres to facilitate industrial development and thus promote employment. There are also special programmes like Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, Rural Employment Generation Programme of Khadi & Village Industries Commission, etc., for increasing self employment opportunities in industry, trade and services. There are also a large number of schemes for individual sectors like handlooms, handicrafts, sericulture etc.

(e) As per the estimates available from the 50th Round survey of National Sample Survey Organisation, Agriculture & Allied activities accounted for 62.60% of the total employment.

(f) The national Policy on Agriculture currently under formulation envisages a positive trade and investment climate for agriculture at par with industry. The intention is to bestow on the agricultural sector, in as many respects as possible, benefits similar to those obtaining in industry such as easy availability of credit and other inputs, free movements of agricultural products and infrastructural facilities etc.

Fund Released for Long Term Action Plan in Orissa

1004. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) how much amount has been released to the State Government of Orissa on the long term action plan (K.B.K.) Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput from 1995-96 till date;

(b) whether Government of Orissa has submitted the Annual Action Plan and the utilisation certificate; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The amount released to the State Government of Orissa on the Long Term Action Plan (LTAP) for Kalahandi, Bolangir & Koraput districts (K.B.K.) by the Department of Rural Employment & Poverty Alleviation, Department of Agriculture & Co-operation, Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Ministry of Non Conventional Energy